GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:850
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2004
SUPPLY OF POLLUTED DIRTY DRINKING WATER
Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that polluted and dirty drinking water is being supplied in various areas of Delhi/New Delhi particularly in South Delhi recently causing health hazards;

(b) if so, the areas where such cases have been detected alongwith the complaints received in this regard;

(c) whether samples of the water were also tested in laboratories;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure supply of pure drinking water and to take action against the officials responsible for supply of polluted water?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a): The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has reported that drinking water supplied by them is potable and free from impurities. However, sometimes due to pipe bursts, damage to the pipelines, corrosion of service connections, unauthorised installation of on-line booster by consumers, complaints of polluted water are received by them which are attended to on top priority basis.

(b): The DJB has reported that it has received such complaints from water scarcity areas viz. Gobind Puri, Garhi, Kotla Mubark Pur, Madangir, Lajpat Nagar, Dakshinpuri etc.

(c)&(d): The DJB`s laboratory and field staff lift about 500 water samples for residual chlorine daily at random from the consumer ends. The Treatment & Quality Control Department of DJB also lifts 300 samples daily which are checked for Bacteriological examination. About 0.75% of the total samples were found bacteriologically unsatisfactory during the year 2003-04 which is less than the permissible limit of 5%. All the samples are tested in laboratories to check the quality of drinking water supplied by it. The Jal Board also conducts tests for physio chemical parameters in raw water and final treated water.

(e): With a view to ensure supply of pure drinking water, the DJB has set up 6 water testing laboratories at various water treatment plants with adequate facilities and manned by qualified personnel for inspection and evaluating the suitability of water supplies for public use. These laboratories also control the water treatment process round the clock.

Apart from this, the DJB is also getting samples of drinking water tested from outside reputed agencies like National Environmental Engineering Institute (NEERI) fortnightly for Physio-chemical, microbiological parameters. Testing for toxic metals, pesticides residue and trihalo methane formation are also tested by them on quarterly basis.